Import of coconut oil and Rubber

180. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to import coconut oil and rubber during the current or coming financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the possible impact of the action on the prices of the items produced in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to import coconut oil during 1991-92. Import of rubber for each year is decided on the basis of the expected demand-supply gap for the year and also keeping in view the buffer stocks available. The projections of the demand-supply gap and the stocks of rubber available in the country are reviewed from time to time to take suitable decisions at the appropriate time. Since import of rubber is made to meet the demand-supply gap, such import, if any, is not expected to have adverse impact on the prices of rubber in the domestic market.

Indo-Taiwanese Joint Ventures

181. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the possibility of Taiwan serving as base for Indo-Taiwanese joint ventures manufacturing products for export to China and other countries ;

(b) whether a Taiwanese delegation visited India for negotiating on this a possibility ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : (a) to (c) No, Sir; at Government level, no such proposal has been under consideration. However, a 13-member non-official Taiwanese Trade Delegation visited India during June, 17—25, 1991 and held discussions with ASOCHAM and PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the possibilities of promoting bilateral trade, investment and setting up joint ventures etc.

Pending Projects of Maharashtra concerning Environment

182. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the projects submitted by Maharashtra Government which are pending with the Central Government from environmental angle; and

(b) the time since when these are pending and by when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL ATH): (a) One project namely, the Construction of New and All Weather Jetty at Elephanta Island.

(b) It is pending since February, 1991. The Project would be apprised after receipt of additional information which has been asked for and is awaited.

Concessions To Tea Industry

183. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Industry has approached Government for certain concessions to prevent a drop in tea exports; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the concessions asked for by the industry and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government received representations/suggestions from tea industry and trade from time to time